THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALTION VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4 SEPTEMBER 1990

FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Anything . . . Anything for a Buck

by William Kramer, Sean Starke and Scot Wheat.

We write this article as people concerned about our deteriorating environment. We also write this article as friends of working people in the U.S. and as supporters of the struggles of workers in South Africa, Central America and elsewhere.

With these interests in mind, we would like to suggest that it is time for a change at the Washington State Investment Board.

It is time for state employees to say no to corporations that eagerly coexist with governments who murder and torture labor leaders and smash movements for worker's rights and social justice.

It is time to stop the pension funds of state employees from being sunk into corporations that peddle toxic chemicals and pollute our environment.

Finally, it is time to end the irony of state worker's money going to companies that thoughtlessly cut U.S. jobs and break unions as they roam the global marketplace searching for cheap labor and exploitable resources.

Of course, the Washington State Investment Board was not established to help sponsor environ-

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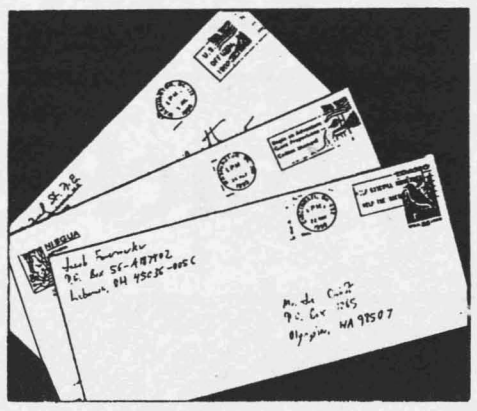

A Response to Milly Clapp

Dear Editors,

I have just returned from Redwood Summer after taking part in several non-violent direct actions to preserve the old growth forests in California. I am an active local forest preservationist and backwoods anti-nuclear organizer. I am writing today to express concern over the apparent linkage in the minds of many people of the hemp liberation movement and the forest preservation/restoration ecology movement.

Such apparent linkage can only hurt the cause of forest protection in this age of conservative reaction.

Let us continue to recognize the right of all persons to the freedom to do as they will without harming others, while keeping these two issues separate in public. The hypocrisy of state-subsidized liquor and marijuana prohibition is apparent for all to see; the hypocrisy of clearcutting a patch of forest to plant a commercial monoculture of hemp for paper is not of a lesser magnitude.

Many billions of tons of wheat straw, corn waste, rags, and cotton are burned or destroyed in this country every year, and would provide excellent primary feedstocks for high-quality paper production without increasing the present rate of environmental degradation. If you doubt the value of these feedstocks for pulp, take a look at some Japanese rice-straw paper: it is the finest paper in the world for printing or toilet paper.

Concentrate your public efforts on habitat preservation, restoration ecology, and the development of tree crops for food production. Alternative feedstocks, recycling and sufficiency (the reduction of paper usage) are far preferable to introduction of yet another cultivated forest insult.

Sincerely,

Chuck Peterson, Cosmopolis

PS- Gene, Regina, Catherine, Tom, Teresa, Matt, Sylvia, and Patrick: thanks for being here, and thank you for getting all the people together... May the light of a hundred thousand suns shine in your hearts forever.

What is a Stroke?

by David Miles

After I had a stroke, that became the most important question in the world to me. I didn't understand what had happened to me. I had the misconception that stroke had something to do with the heart and happened to old people.

But my heart was fine and I certainly wasn't old. What was it that destroyed and so completely changed my life as I had known it.

A dictionary was of no help. What did the striking of a clock, a touch of a pen, a gentle rub or the sweep of an oar have to do with what happened to me?

I asked doctors and nurses about what had happened to me. They told me that a stroke is a C.V.A., a cranal-vascular accident. How could such a mild phrase represent such devastation? Later, I learned that a stroke is any condition that halts or impedes the flow of oxygen-rich blood to the brain, thereby causing portions of the brain to suffocate and die.

I now knew what had happened to me, but had no inkling of what was yet to happen. Only time and experience would be able to answer that question.

I vaguely remember waking up with an uncertain feeling that something was very wrong. I looked around the room with difficulty because my head wouldn't turn properly. I saw my brother holding my hand and crying. Why was he crying? More importantly, why didn't I feel him holding my hand? I tried to look at my hand to see what was the matter, but I couldn't move it.

A doctor came into the room and I remember thinking, "Now I'll find out what's going on." I tried to ask, but the words stumbled out of my mouth in an unintelligible mess. My lips and tongue weren't working right. The doctor must have seen the question in my eyes because he said, "You're paralyzed." He then turned and walked out of the room.

My confusion was to be magnified. During the next two weeks, I was constantly drugged with morphine. This was to keep me docile and to prevent further damage to my brain.

Nobody would look me in the eyes and tell me what had happened. As I asked my question, people would either silently look away or get a blank, tearful expression on their faces.

My next stop was a rehabilitation hospital. At last I got some answers. Finding out what happened was a long, drawn out process. What it did to me became painfully obvious. I lost my possessions, my family, and my livelihood. In short, I lost everything but my life. And it didn't look too bright, my being only "half here." I wanted to lay down and die. But that's not allowed to happen in a rehabilitation hospital. I was started on a process of rehabilitation. Everybody had a hand in the retaining process. I had to be "taught" appropriate behavior and how to talk. I was guided and chastised as if I were an infant.

I recall the embarassment I felt as I was helped on and off the toilet and had to have help lowering and raising my pants. I wonder how red my face was when the nurse asked, "Did you go number one or number two?" And I remember crying with shameless joy when, with assistance, I was able to stand and walk ten feet.

Sometime during this same period my feeling returned. I had never realized how painful it could be to feel. When I shaved, it felt as though I was dragging the skin off my face. My children tried to engage in one of their favorite activities, Tickling Daddy. What I felt was their fingers grating over my ribs.

The worst pain of all was in my soul. With little family and scant few friends left, an overpowering and all-consuming lonliness overcame me. I no longer had anything in common to talk about with other people.

But life is a process of learning. I've learned that recovery is a very long process. If I don't recover completely within six years I never will. I've also learned that rehabilitation is not learning how to do things again, it is figuring out how to accomplish what I want to do with whatever resources I have to use.

I've told what a stroke does. Now I'll tell what a stroke is: A stroke is being condemned and sentenced (without accusation, trial or appeal) to life imprisonment in solitary confinement within your own body, which will not work properly for you.

KAOS says "thanks"

To the Editors:

Thank you for including the KAOS program schedule in your latest issue of **Works In Progress**. As a fellow volunteer, non-profit organization, I'm sure you realize the budgetary limitations we have on promotion and advertising. Your help is greatly appreciated.

KAOS provides air time to qualified non-profit organizations through our Public Service Announcements and Community Billboard. Events can also be publicized on the Entertainment Calendar and Community Billboard. Please use these services to promote your own activities. Call Juli Kelen, our Training and Operations Manager, for more information on this.

Works In Progress has made a strong start. I hope you have continued success.

Sincerely,

Tom Hinds, Program Director

More of These, Please

Dear W.I.P.,

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoy your publication. It is encouraging to see a new progressive news journal take root here in Thurston County. I was pleased to see in your August issue a list of names and addresses of companies that import coffee from El Salvador.

For some time now I have been looking for an outlet to express my concern about human rights abuses there. It was not until I read in *Works In Progress* the names and addresses of those companies who do business in El Salvador that I found a few good places to send a few appropriate letters. The combination of an informative article explaining the conflict in El Salvador along with the addresses of those people who need to hear from concerned citizens about it, proved to be an effective means for motivating people like myself to actively contribute to the public debate on this issue.

I would encourage you to make this practice a regular feature of your news journal so that your readers might have a steady source of those people, companies, and public figures who might benefit from being the recipients of letter writing campaigns. Thanks, and keep up the good work.

Gary Diamond, Olympia

W.I.P. MENTIONED IN BALLOT ACTION NEWS

The Ballot Action News, August 14, 1990, referenced the Works in Progress article, "The Case For Proportional Representation" by Robert Ritchie printed in May.

Also, according to Ballot Action News, copies are available of a model law for a rank-order system of proportional representation by Thomas W. Jones. To obtain a free copy send a SASE to 15336 Cruse St., Detroit, MI 48227.

In This Issue . . .

Here we go again. Issue four of Works in Progress. It seems only yesterday that we were discussing the possibilities of a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Of course since our last issue, Iraq invaded Kuwait and the United States has amassed in Saudi Arabia the largest military build-up since Vietnam - presumably in preparation to invade Iraq and overthrow Saddam Hussein. Inside, Ron Jacobs, Leanne Roberts, and Alexander Cockburn all share perspectives about the crisis. Brings back memories of the old anti-war chant: "Hell no, we won't go. We won't die for Texaco." In the discussions about the stand-off, no one is mentioning the fact that former acting President Ronald Reagan abandoned all research and resoruce commitment toward alternative energy sources initiated by the Carter Administration. And yes Virginia, there still is an S&L crisis. We're happy to welcome Tom Connelly, our new go-getting advertising representative who is helping ensure that we continue to publish. We still need money, though, so please subscribe if you haven't already, or simply send a contribution, so we can continue to pubish the very best.

Works in Progress is a collective of creative energy. We do not have an editor per se, but make decisions through consensus involving an editorial board. As always, we encourage letters and article submissions.

Address correspondence to Works In Progress, Thurston County Rainbow Coaltion, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Finally, it's September - that time of the year when we pause to honor working men and women whose labor has created the wealth in this country. As workers struggle to maintain jobs and improve lifestyles, we are mindful that many corporations continue to cut labor costs through wage concessions, lay-offs and automation. Right here in Olympia, Food Pavilion is replacing checkers with self-serve check-out lanes. We stand by our brothers and sisters in the United Food and Commercial Workers in opposition to this blatant elimination of jobs. SOLIDARITY!

Tom Freeman, Editorial Board.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Gene Cade, Dave Campbell, Tom Connelly, Regina Costa, Catherine Dawdy, Tom Freeman,Beth Hartmann, Teresa Jennings, Matt Love, Sylvis Smith & Patrick Tassoni.

A Personal Appeal to Celibate Bishops

My dearest friend of nearly two decades, Betty, sent me the note about your publication. Sure! I'd love for people to publish my concerns any where they can! One of my dear friends, a retired Episcopal bishop in Ohio - Michigan has asked me for permission to quote extensively. So, FEEL FREE!

Hardly a week passes now that you do not have some pronouncement or media event with headlines and pictures re your favorite obsessions: sex education, birth control, condoms, abortion, homosexuality.

You have so nobly put the rest of us to shame, indeed we owe you great debt of gratitude, for the courage and commitment of your prophetic leadership in virtually every current issue of social justice.

HOWEVER, in all honesty yet compassion, your pontifications on these matters of sexuality and reproduction are about as relevant as your other medieval obsession of how many angels could stand on a pinhead.

Surely you know WHY you are so irrelevant to life. You have chosen categorically to avoid all intimacies with another, preferring rather a sexless childless life-style. This is indisputably your constitutional right of choice, for which you cannot be faulted per se.

BUT have you ever really considered the price YOU pay for celibacy in terms of moral integrity, by forfeiting any authenticity?

YOU HAVE NEVER:

.....RISKED opening yourself to a committed intimacy in the arms of a loving woman, where each body is totally exposed to the other in mutual vulnerability and trust, while looking into the very soul of a partner through eyes only three inches away.

.....EXPERIENCED that frightening realization that your own little offspring are scrutinizing and emulating your every thought and behavior 24 hours a day at home when your hair is down.

.....STRUGGLED under the burdens of financial, legal and developmental responsibilities of parenthood, that daily grind of family duties and costs of raising to adulthood the consequences of your sexuality.

.....FELT the pain of a real "father" hearing your own son's agonizing sobs from all the cruel discriminations and harassments inflected on him (even by you bishops), just for having been

oriented gay.

.....PANICKED at the news that your own daughter-in-law lies at death's door from complications in delivering your own marvelous grandson.

.....WATCHED your own beautiful pre-teen granddaughter growing up, anguished at the statistical averages of her being a victim of brutal rape - then be forced by some Quaylean-Falwellian law to carry the pregnancy and raise alone such an unwanted child.

.....SUFFERED as a single parent, suddenly deprived of that most basic human drive, trying to build a whole new emotional life in the midst of a world-wide AIDS epidemic - while reading the bishops' headlines that condoms for any purpose violate God's eternal laws.

MORALITY is the stuff of real LIFE, lived out in these daily choices, not in the rarified ozone of theoretical hair-splitting. What even people who agree with your views cannot understand is simply - WHY, having made your own choice, you deny choices to everybody else?

But you add insult to injury when you publicly attack and threaten to punish our legislators and officials for not basing PUBLIC policies and programs on YOUR personal spiritual discipline.

Moreover, in choosing to join forces with the right-wingers of Protestant extremism on sexuality, with whom you share virtually nothing else theologically, ethically or historically, you lend your weight to their constant campaign to destroy or dilute these great personal liberties guaranteed by the Constitution. Ironically, in so doing you jeopardize all those years of ecumenical interfaith dialogue, understanding and cooperation achieved with "mainline" churches, sacrificing all on the altar of your compulsion to regulate everybody else's sexual and reproductive lives.

Recognizing that you cannot individually change your whole system, for indeed we have seen what happens to every bishop, priest, professor who tries, can't you at least find some way of re-opening the dialogue in the spirit of that pioneer of "glasnost", Pope John XXIII a generation ago?

Until then, couldn't you at least muster enough genuine humility for an honest apology, even a CONFESSION, to those who ask: "Look, in matters of sex and reproduction, my ideology, ordination vows and inexperience render me wholly unqualified to advise you, for I really can't KNOW a damned thing of what you are talking about."

BUT, if this social irrelevancy of professional celibacy does not gnaw at your gizzard, then at least, when you stand in the halls of our legislatures and media, don't be surprised, someday, someplace, like on Candid Camera, we step up and remind you:

"YA NO PLAYA DA GAME; YA NO MAKA DA RULES."

Your retired clerical colleague for freedom and justice,

Garnett E. Phibbs
Los Angeles, CA

Garnett Phibbs has three graduate degrees, two from Yale, in social ethics. He has been an ecumenical social action leader for 30 years and a personal friend and professional associate of Msgr. Mike Doyle of Toledo, Past Pres. of Natl. Catholic Welf. Conf. A father of three sons and grandfather of two, every example in this appeal came directly from his own life.

Keep W.I.P. Alive

While we don't run on gas, we certainly do not run on air. We need your help to keep going.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

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Works In Progress, c/o TCRC, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

A Paradigm of Hypocrisy: U.S. and the United Nations

by Alexander Cockburn

In these days of national unity and high moral purpose against Saddam Hussein it is salutary to remember just how hypocritical the U.S. appears in the eyes of a good many people on the planet, particularly in the Third World.

For one thing the U.S. nourished Saddam Hussein almost from the earliest days. There is a strong case for believing that the CIA, regarding the Iraqi Communist Party as the target of opportunity, collaborated with the Ba'thist coup of 1963 and furnished lists of Communists who were then seized and murdered.

This pattern of assistance continued until only a brief moment before Iraq invaded Kuwait. All through the 1980s, when Saddam's abominations – the gassing of thousands of Kurds, torture and murder of children – were well known, the U.S. furnished him crucial support in his war against Iran, including satellite intelligence and helicopters and naval escorts for tankers.

In the U.N. Human Rights Commission the U.S. helped deflect an examination of Iraq's savage abuses earlier this year. Only ten days before the invasion U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Richard Murphy was asked in an interview in the *International Herald Tribune* if he agreed that Saddam was acting like Hitler. Murphy said the comparison was "too glib" and that Saddam "is a rough direct-talking leader...."

Of course the parallels between Saddam's invasion of Kuwait and Bush's of Panama are obvious to any rational being, and it similarly requires little effort to contrast U.S. outrage for ravaged Kuwait with its support for Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Israel has been sitting in Arab lands since 1967 and Turkey, now praised by Bush for aiding in the sanctions, has been illegally holding Northern Cyprus since 1974. When Saddam launched his invasion of Iran on September 22, 1980, the U.N. Security Council failed to consider the matter for nearly two weeks. Even then, amid what was being described as an Iraqi "blitzkrieg" there was no condemnation from the Security Council but a call for a "ceasefire in place," when the Iraqis were thirty miles inside Iranian territory.

Let us consider in more detail – as a paradigm of the hypocrisy noted above – the sudden rediscovery by U.S. politicians and commentators of the United Nations as a splendid body, emblem of mankind's most virtuous aspirations. In a not untypical editorial on Aug. 6, the Boston Globe announced "the U.N.'s coming of age," saying that with the three resolutions against Iraq's aggression passed by the Security Council, "the United Nations may finally achieve the lofty status its founders sought 45 years ago."

What the phrase "coming of age" actually means is that for once the United States and the rest of the world were in step. In years when this has not been the case and the United States was in a minority in the Security Council and the General Assembly, then the U. N. was denounced as a "Third World talking shop," sadly short of lofty status.

. . . the parallels between Saddam's invasion of Kuwait and Bush's of Panama are obvious to any rational being . . .

Being essentially a mouthpiece for the state, the U.S. press has mostly managed through the last decade to overlook the degree of isolation of the United States from the rest of the world. To take some examples (there are more in Noam Chomsky's *Necessary Illusions*): In June, 1986, the World Court condemned the United States for its "unlawful use of force" in mining Nicaragua's harbors, in supporting the Contras and in conducting illegal economic warfare. The court ordered the United States to stop violating international law and to pay reparations. Congress promptly voted $100 million for the Contras.

In November, 1986, the U.N. Security Council passed, 11 to 1 with 3 abstentions, a resolution calling on the United States to observe international law. The United States vetoed it. Nicaragua then went to the General Assembly, which voted 34 to 3 (United States, Israel, El Salvador) calling on the United States to comply with the World Court ruling. In 1987, at the time of the Washington summit and the Intermediate Nuclear Forces treaty, the U. N. General Assembly voted 154 to 1 with no abstentions to oppose the buildup of weapons in outer space. It voted 135 to 1 against the development of new weapons of mass destruction. In both of these cases the United States cast the lone negative vote. The U. S. press was mostly silent.

In the same session, the Assembly passed a resolution condemning "Terrorism Wherever and by Whomever Committed." The vote was 153 to 2, with Honduras abstaining. It's not hard to figure why the United States and Israel objected, since it contained the statement that "nothing in the resolution would prejudice the right of peoples, particularly those under colonial or racist regimes, or under foreign occupation or other forms of domination, to struggle for self-determination, freedom and independence, or to seek and receive support for that end." When Yasser Arafat renounced terrorism he did so within the terms of that U.N. resolution, which all NATO countries except the United States supported. These days, the Emir of Kuwait would probably take the same position as Arafat.

To take one final example, in January the Security Council voted 13 to 1, with Britain abstaining, to condemn the sacking by U.S, troops of the residence of the Nicarguan ambassador in Panama. No talk then in the U.S. press about the U.N.'s lofty ideals.

In sum, when the world disagrees with the United States, the world is crazy. All through the 1950s, when the United States controlled the place, the United Nations was extolled as the locus of visionary statesmanship and the Soviets were reviled for their vetoes. Disgusted talk about Third World domination came later, in the 1970s and 1980s, when the boot was on the other foot.

It's this shifting posture that strikes folks out there, particularly in the Third World, as peculiarly hypocritical. One day Saddam Hussein is the West's bulwark against the Ayatollah, the next he's evil incarnate and openly invoked in the U.S. press as a worthy target for assassination.

So yes, Hussein, tyrant that he indubitably is, is getting a good deal of support inside the Arab world from people infuriated at the double standard. "What did they [the United States] do to stop the [1982 Israeli] invasion of Lebanon," asked a Palestinian computer programmer quoted in a report in the London Times. "What have they done about the bloody occupation of the West Bank?" The answer is that the United States has done nothing.

So, as the escalation of a U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia begins, we may as well be clear about the dominant opinion in the region – of people in the street, so to speak, rather than terrified sheiks and U.S. clients – about the moral credentials of this proud upholder of the rule of law.

(Regina Costa pays for this column each month. Thank you, Regina!)

Jesse Jackson

The Sacrificial Lamb

Soldiers loyal to Liberian President Samuel K. Doe recently stormed St. Peter's Lutheran Church and killed up to 600 innocent men, women, children and babies who had sought sanctuary there. They used machine guns and knives on their innocent victims. Reuters described it this way: "Bodies of boys 7 and 8 years old were draped on the altar and a pile of bodies was half-hidden in a dark corner nearby. Dead women lay on the floor with children wrapped in shawls on their backs. A crucifix had been thrown to the floor. Bullet holes riddled the ceiling."

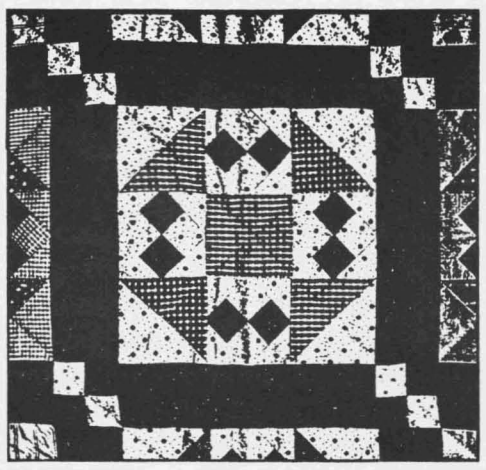
Faced with the situation in Liberia, they drew a blank and froze.

As the civil war and killings escalated in Liberia, what was the U.S. response? The White House issued a statement condemning the massacre of innocent civilians as a "senseless act of terror" and urged a cease-fire on all sides.

Why such a weak and inadequate response to Liberia's terrible plight? After all, the U.S. and Liberia have a 143-year-old "special relationship," and innocent lives are being sacrificed. Four hundred Americans are believed to be in Liberia, the roads out of the capital are blocked and the airport is closed. American economic interests are at stake — Firestone Tire & Rubber has facilities in Liberia. Thus, we could have used humanitarian grounds, the risk to American lives, or the threat to American interests as an excuse to intervene. But we did not! Why? Because Liberia is an early sacrificial lamb to the end of the Cold War. Now that the scare of communism in Africa is largely gone, Liberia no longer has strategic value to the United States.

American blacks founded Liberia in 1847. Its capital, Monrovia, and its second largest city, Buchanan, were both named after American presidents. When Firestone officials arrived in the early 1920s, Liberia welcomed them and guarded their interests. During World War II, the U.S. helped build a large hospital in Liberia to which we transported wounded American soldiers. When

(Continued page 12, Liberia.)



Patchworks

Thomas Mitchell Freeman

The Conspiracy of Educational Reform

A friend told me about a cartoon he saw. Picture two cows in a field. The one cow rushes up to the other cow and exclaims, "Oh my god, I just found out where hamburger comes from!" The other cow looks at him and says "Oh you lefties and your conspiracy theories."

A conspiracy is well underway, involving policy-makers (including the Higher Education Coordinating [HEC] Board), the governor, the state legislature and a corporate organization of business executives known as the Washington Roundtable. [The HEC Board is the state agency responsible for the formation and implementation of policy issues regarding higher education. It's members are political appointees of the Governor and most have strong ties with the Washington Roundtable.] At stake is the future of education from K-12 and extending into higher education. The struggle is economically based, and the ultimate goal is the redefinition of public education seeking to make schools more effective servants of elite interests.

In their book, American Ideologies Today, Ken Dolbeare and Linda Medcalf state that "The weight of dominant opinion, shaped in the image of those who hold wealth, status, and social power, will almost inevitably cause others to fall in line and often even to participate in discouraging opposition or punishing dissidents." (page 25). Indeed, the very characteristics of wealth, status, and social power are determinants which prescribe who the experts are in so-called educational reform.

With the United States losing its pre-eminence as a world power both internationally and domestically, elites are determined to create a pro- corporate business environment that increases our state's competitiveness in the new world economy. Education is quantified to the lowest common denominator, with Governor Gardner's full participation and support. Gardner repeatedly refers to education as an "investment" in our future. Sounds good on the surface. However, when education is defined through the capitalist notion of making an investment, one naturally looks for a monetary "return" which will comfort lawmakers and taxpayers that money is being well spent.

The Washington Roundtable proclaims its support for the HEC Board's Master Plan. It calls for stronger ties of business, chambers of commerce in determining enrollment policies and curriculum decision-making. The Roundtable unabashedly proclaims themselves as "forming the debate and developing the agenda" for "creating exceptional public schools for the next century." "Excellence" apparently includes massive doses of mathematics, science, capitalist economic studies, and the teaching of proper business attire and personal hygiene habits. Sadly, they truly are setting the debate, virtually assuring that business interests dominate future education development, while the Washington Education Association, and other teacher organizations passively lay low and find themselves in an on-going defensive posture against the new recommendations.

Policy-makers regard service to the workplace and credentialization as the raisons d'etre of education. For example, the HEC Board's Master Plan requires a 2.50 cumulative grade point average and specified college preparatory courses for access to the state's four-year colleges. Furthermore, two research institutions rely upon admissions test results to conveniently index and quantify applicants enabling them to choose only the highest scorers. Additionally, the HEC Board, in association with the Washington Roundtable, boasts of a three-tier plan in which prospective college students are segregated into community colleges, baccalaureate institutions and four-year research universities on the basis of past course selections, performance and standardized test scores. Discarded is the commitment to community-based, radically innovative, inclusionary education driven from bottom up grassroots efforts by parents, teachers and students.

love

Segregation by academic design is the new rule of higher education admission standards. Stagnant intellectual centers and lack of commitment to cultural diversity, can be the only result of the HEC Board three-tier plan. Only subserviently qualified graduates ready to fill vacancies in corporate infrastructures shall be accepted, ensuring steady profits while the dispossessed remain controlled.

New requirements for teachers clearly demonstrate policy-makers' love for certification and professional status as determinants of problem solving. Rather than addressing issues of over-sized classrooms, underpaid teachers, and students-at-risk, new legislation requires that teachers must have a master's degree in arts, sciences, humanities or teaching to receive certification to educate in the classroom after August 1992. The new corporate buzzwords are "competent," and "excellence," and the Roundtable, HEC board and legislators want you to know that they understand the definitions of both and are implementing them for the unsuspecting public.

Unfortunately, the Roundtable fails to recognize the reality that teaching is a severely underpaid profession and that many financially strapped but equally committed and dynamic candidates for teaching certification may be forced out of education or into other states with less stringent requirements. Professional status is carelessly equated with academic excellence, which limits itself to a shortsighted academic conformity where the notion of competency equals knowledge.

Rather than accept this vision of economic success as the litmus test of quality education, we should accept inclusion and self-enrichment as guiding principles in Washington's pursuit of academic excellence. Rather than remaining asleep at the wheel, educators need to take the offensive away from the business elites and the technocratic centralization of the HEC Board and chart out a progressive new vision for education. If corporate profits and economic viability are replaced with a different set of realities, a holistic scenario emerges. Education must pursue the value of self-discovery, the art of creative expression, and the study of cultural diversity. Progressive education should focus instruction around issues of gender equality, include radical assessment of social issues, encourage and promote independent critical analysis, and challenge the dominant culture's stranglehold on education through painful historical truths about colonial exploitation, genocide of native peoples, slavery and how and why textbooks distort and falsify history. Emphasis should be placed on Labor history and culture so that students get a clear understanding of working peoples contributions to the economic vitality of our country. The Roundtable, the legislature, the HEC Board, and the Governor appear incapable of appreciating or accepting the aesthetic value of, say a poet or a student who wants to paint for personal growth, strum a guitar, or critique accepted dominant culture norms.

Accepting and practicing education only as a tool of material gain, seeing education as an investment with a dollar and cents return, narrows the capability of people to explore outside the narrow confines of capitalist ideology. Ken Dolbeare once commented that if liberal arts education is doing its job, it is, by its very nature, somewhat subversive. The HEC Board and Business Roundtable view this as an unacceptable definition of education. They are determined to tie a knot between education and short-term economic gains.

Lost in this equation is long-term personal accomplishment and the open, inquiring mind that avoids disenchantment and the sacrifice of personal identity to the corporate model. Open access, academic freedom, study for the purpose of personal growth and subject matter that enriches the heart and soul of the individual rather than the greedy coffers of the corporate state is true "excellence in education." Fighting for this vision will take perseverance and the willingness to challenge the policy-makers, politicians, and business elites head-on. It means demanding that educators fight for academic freedom and that communities define their own realities of a well educated populace.

Can we afford to sit back and continue to let the technocrats fit us into the little boxes of corporate education? Remember, we all know where hamburger comes from!

Tom is entering TESC's Masters in Public Administration this fall.

THE MILITARY OPTION, DRUGS, OIL, AND CORPORATE ADDICTION

by Ron Jacobs

While the military-industrial heads of government search for a way to maintain their control of the economy and our lives in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet bloc, what should come along but a growing insurgency in South America and a convenient bogeyman in the Mideast. Although seemingly unconnected, they are instead part and parcel of the U.S. hope for renewed world hegemony and perfect excuses to legitimize the use of unbridled military force.

The clearest example yet of the US war on drugs being a pretext for counterinsurgency is occurring in Peru. A week after DEA agents assumed a publicly acknowledged military role, attacking guerrillas of the popular peasant movement known in the US as Sendero Luminoso, the US government promised $35 million in military aid along with a few squads of Green Berets. Of course, the U.S. insists the Green Berets are merely advisors but, then again, we've heard that before. In addition, plans are underway for the construction of another Vietnam style advance fire base in another part of Peru where Sendero is rapidly gaining support.

The US news machine portrays Sendero as bandits who protect coca growers when in reality they protect the peasantry who, due to the continuing North American and European domination of Latin America, have no choice but to grow whatever crop brings the highest price in the international marketplace. A program which had the peasants' true interests in mind would encourage self-sustenance farming instead of warfare. Indeed, that idea is part of Sendero's program in the regions of the country they control. However, that wouldn't make money for the international corporations based in the US, Europe and Japan; and working out of Lima. It would only feed the people and loosen the hold of the outside world. Neither of which is on the multinational corporate agenda.

Speaking of corporate agendas, the developing war against Iraq and its sympathizers in the Mideast is a prime example of the interests of the multinationals being defined as our interests. Of course, the truth is far different, yet it may take a few thousand dead before that realization hits most North Americans. As Bush, the oil man, angrily denounces the overthrow of the Kuwaiti ruling family, he advances the oil companies' plan to regain majority control of the world oil market which, according to their way of thinking, they lost when OPEC was formed. They didn't lose a penny, OPEC just raised the prices.

The oil companies' pawns in D.C. and elsewhere have no right to tell us we should go to war for their profits

The oil producing countries legitimate attempt to exercise more control over their resources has never been truly accepted by big oil and the governments it runs. Just as the Iranian revolution was perceived as a threat to oil interests, so is Iraq's attempt to command the Kuwaiti and other oilfields. After all, if U.S. companies did not exercise major control of Mideast oil, why is the invasion of Kuwait causing so much political and economic panic? Not that this writer supports Saddam Hussein or the Iraq military, for they are truly ruthless.

At the same time, so is any military force. The attacks on Grenada, Panama, etc., and of course the war against the people of Vietnam, remain, in this writer's mind, three of the ultimate recent exercises of bloodletting in the name of U.S. interests. For the U.S. government to criticize the Iraqi attack on Kuwait, while Panamanian citizens continue to live in squalid U.S. maintained detention camps in their own country because their homes were destroyed by U.S. military overkill, is not just hypocritical, it's a cynical manipulation of public opinion worthy of Goebbels and his office of propaganda.

The oil companies' pawns in D.C. and elsewhere have no right to tell us we should go to war for their profits – profits which they will make no matter what happens in the Mideast or anywhere until people throughout the world not longer allow their interests to be identified as those of the multinationals.

The Iraqi actions have given EXXON, the United States, and all the rest of the energy monopoly a convenient excuse to bring the upstart Mideastern nations to their knees and, thereby set the oil prices they desire. In order to fight these U.S. moves in the middle east and elsewhere the anti-intervention movement must develop much more of an internationalist perspective. Only then can we see and explain how a war for oil in the mIdeast is part of the same plan which supports the death squad government in El Salvador, the Israeli repression of the Palestinian struggle for nationhood, and the war against the peoples of South and urban North America in the name of stopping drugs.

To develop a movement with such an analysis we cannot, as the solidarity movement of the 1980s did, depend on elected representatives to provide much support, at least at this time. Instead, we must organize among the people and then use our numbers to end the growing wars the Bush regime seems intent on widening.

Ron Jacobs is a member of the C.A.A.C.

In the August 25th Pet Parade Photo by Janine Rogers

Conscientious U.S. Marine Objects

The following press release is from a Marine who refused to ship out to the Persina Gulf. As of 8/20 he is being confined to the barracks and is awaiting some decision from the brass about how they will respond to his refusal. Letters of support should be sent to his lawyer; Eric Seitz, 820 Mililani, Suite 714, Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday August 16, 1990
Good Afternoon,

My name is Jeff Paterson. I'm a CPL in the USMC. I have served 3 years, 9 months in the military with a relatively clean record, have received various awards, and have consistently received above average job proficiency and conduct ratings from my superiors. I have seven months left to serve before my End of Active Service Date. My Military Occupational Specialty is that of a Field Artillery Fire Direction Controller, however, for the past two years I have been able to keep myself posted as a supply clerk to reduce the internal conflicts within myself. The recent moves by our government in the Persian Gulf has made my attempt to fulfill the remainder of my contract in a benign way impossible.

As we speak tens of thousands of servicemen are being mobilized to defend for the first time in American memory a blatantly imperialist economic interest stripped of the State Department's beloved specter of international communism. Although the US is facing off against a truly despicable man in Saddam Hussein, the reality is that US foreign policy created this monster.

* It was the US who tacitly endorsed the Iraqi invasion of Iran ten years ago.

* It was the US and West Germany who sold Hussein chemical weapons throughout the war.

* It was the US who remained silent when Hussein used these weapons on his own populations.

* And after all of this, it was the US who gave Hussein safe passage through the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz by shipping Iraqi oil under the flag of Kuwait, thus protecting it from Iranian attack by US escorts.

As usual the world banks were delighted to assist Iraq in its invasion of Iran by handing out blank checks payable for by the blood of the people of Iran after Iran would be crushed into submission. It was these banks that actually financed

(Continued next page.)

Thurston County Draft Counseling Center
Glen 491-9093

The Satsop Rally

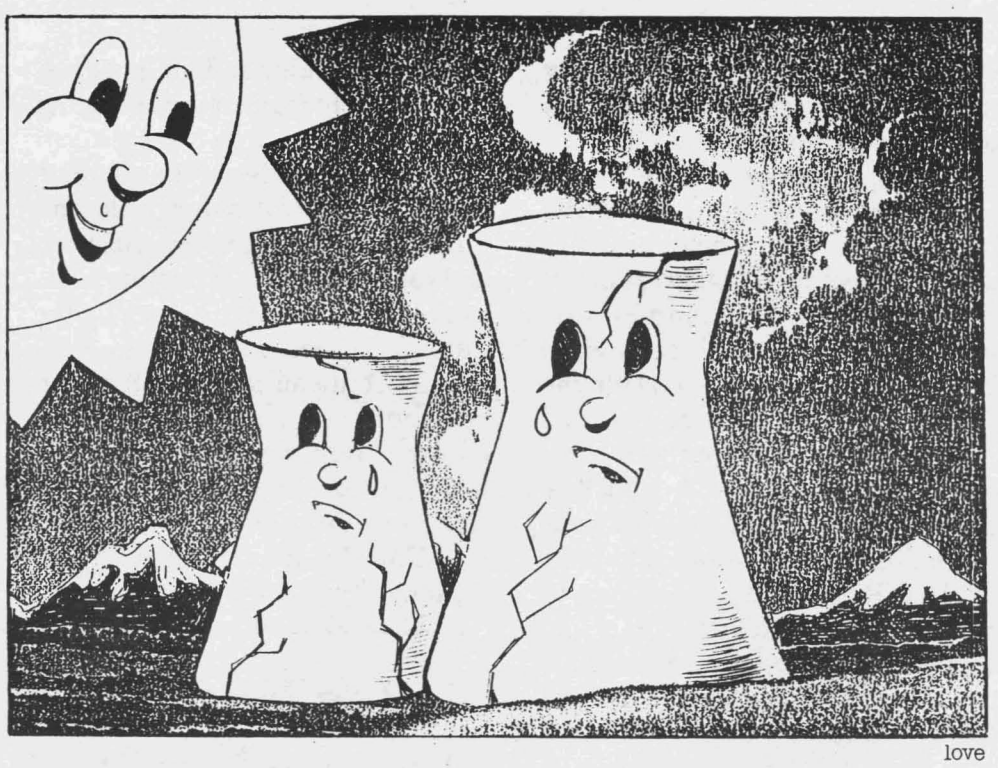
Alternatives to the WPPSS Nuclear Plants

by Regina Costa

The timing was exquisite. One week after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, 400 people came out in 95 degree heat to party in the parking lot of the unfinished nuclear power plant near Elma. Greenpeace billed it as a WPPSS termination party, a response to the Northwest Power and Planning Council decision last May to place two uncompleted WPPSS nuclear power stations (1 and 3) on a list for "active consideration as new power sources for the region." The party turned into a preemptive strike against the inevitable argument that we should substitute dependence on nuclear power for dependence on foreign oil. They came, not merely to bury WPPSS, but to propose an alternative approach to meet people's need for energy.

State Representative Dick Nelson, chair of the House Energy and Utilities Committee, stressed the need to debunk the "myth of technology," which promotes the use of chemicals to give us designer vegetables, large bombs and other weapons to settle disputes among peoples and mammoth nuclear power stations to provide energy. Nelson argued that "...The nuclear myth, as do other technological myths, ignores human-size solutions." Human-size means of producing power were on display in the parking lot, where information on innovative solar and wind options was provided by vendors and Olympia's Energy Outreach Center.

Nelson and other speakers argued that Northwest power planners should pursue methods of conserving energy – including better heating and weatherization options for people with low incomes, more efficient transmission and distribution, and development of alternative renewable energy sources, such as geothermal. Several speakers accused public agencies, including the Northwest Power Planning Council, and energy corporations of putting little effort into conservation. Bob Coe, of Oregon's Salem Electric co-operative, argued that "...Conservation in the last decade has too often been trivialized into marketing schemes and public relations gestures."



love

You know, it's been said that if you liked WPPSS – you'll love Star Wars. Well, I believe that if you liked WPPSS and you loved Star Wars, then WPPSS – The Sequel will blow your mind.

Joe Hommel,
Thurston County PUD Commissioner

Several Public Utility District (PUD) commissioners from Washington and Oregon attended the rally. Matt Dillon, a Snohomish County PUD commissioner who was one of ten Progress Under Democracy candidates elected to PUD commissions in 1982, gave a litany of WPPSS' wildly inaccurate estimates of the costs of creating its nuclear power stations. He argued that WPPSS 1 and 3 have no value and stated that no utility is interested in operating them. The costs associated with power plants are not limited to those arising from construction, maintenance and/or operation, but also include those arising from harm to the environment. Pacific County PUD commissioner Gene Barnum argued that "...Promises that environmental costs would be taken seriously have never been taken seriously by the Northwest Power Planning Council."

When the term "WPPSS" is whispered outside of the corridors of the Northwest Power Planning Council, people express anger and resentment. Washingtonians feel they were lied to and ripped off and they don't want it to happen again. The speakers and the people who came to the party at Elma drove this point home.

But they went farther and expressed some ideas that are percolating in the minds of people throughout this region, the country and the world. There is a growing public demand for human-size methods of producing what humans need to live that do not create hazardous toxic substances or harm the environment. If this were not the case, then none of the Northwest rebel ratepayer PUD commissioners would have been elected (they put forth their views on these issues when they ran for office), George Bush would not have bowed to public pressure and put the shores of Washington, Oregon, California and part of Florida off limits to oil barons (albeit temporarily) and the Green Party would not hold seats in the European Parliament.

The desire of people for production on a human scale is evident in the growth of cottage industries and the flourishing of farmers markets. As pointed out by speakers at Elma, the demand for human-size energy options can also create jobs and economic opportunities for our region – without creating the kinds of horrible messes that have been bestowed on Hanford, Prince William Sound and Chernobyl.

There are people out there who know how to do it. The people who came to the party at Elma want to make sure it gets done. The decision to terminate WPPSS 1 and 3 can be made by the WPPSS executive board, which is largely comprised of PUDs. The power to bury WPSS 1 and 3 lies with Northwest citizens who elect new PUD commissioners this November.

Information about human-size power systems can be obtained from the Energy Outreach Center, 503 W. 4th St., Olympia, 943-4595.

For information about local environmental action groups contact the South Puget Environmental Education Clearing House (SPEECH) at 218 W. 4th St., Olympia, 786-6349. Local organic produce and handicrafts are available at the Olympia Food Co-op (921 N. Rogers) and the Olympia Farmers' Market (near Percival Landing), open Thurs.-Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Regina Costa is a member of No Sweat, a local environmental protection organization. Regina is also a valued member of the Works In Progress Board.

(Marine, continued.)

the carnage of the half million dead resulting from that war. It was this enormous war debt owed by Iraq that forced Hussein in my opinion to make the following choice: Impose harsh austerity measures on his people and face the downfall of this regime, or, with a little military maneuvering, take Kuwait and in one fell swoop double the amount of oil produced by Iraq.

Although there are great differences in this interventionist policy and that of US support for the death squad regimes in El Salvador and Guatemala. There is the underlying motive of corporate profit throughout. Unfortunately the American people have fell for a big lie — that corporate interests are always in the best interests of the people.

This is rarely true. What is the equation that balances human lives and corporate profits?

In my opinion no such equation exists, except in the minds of those that are preparing to fight this war. The United States has no moral ground to stand on in the Persian Gulf. We created this monster and pointed him in this direction. We pour millions into the coffers of Israel's military to wage a war against stone throwing youth seeking a country to call their own once again.

I cannot and will not be a pawn in America's power plays for profits and oil in the Middle East. I will resist my scheduled departure, tentatively Sunday, by immediately filing for conscientious objector status, and physically refusing to board the plane. And of course if I am drug out into the Saudi desert, I will refuse to fight.

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The Rise and Fall of the Washington State Rainbow Coalition

by Dave Jette

It is an honor and a great pleasure to be writing these monthly columns for ***Works in Progress****. My intention is to focus upon what is going on both in Washington State and around the country, toward building independent progressive political organization and activity. This initial column is concerned with the Washington State Rainbow Coalition, of which I happen to be a state officer.*

The Rise of the WSRC

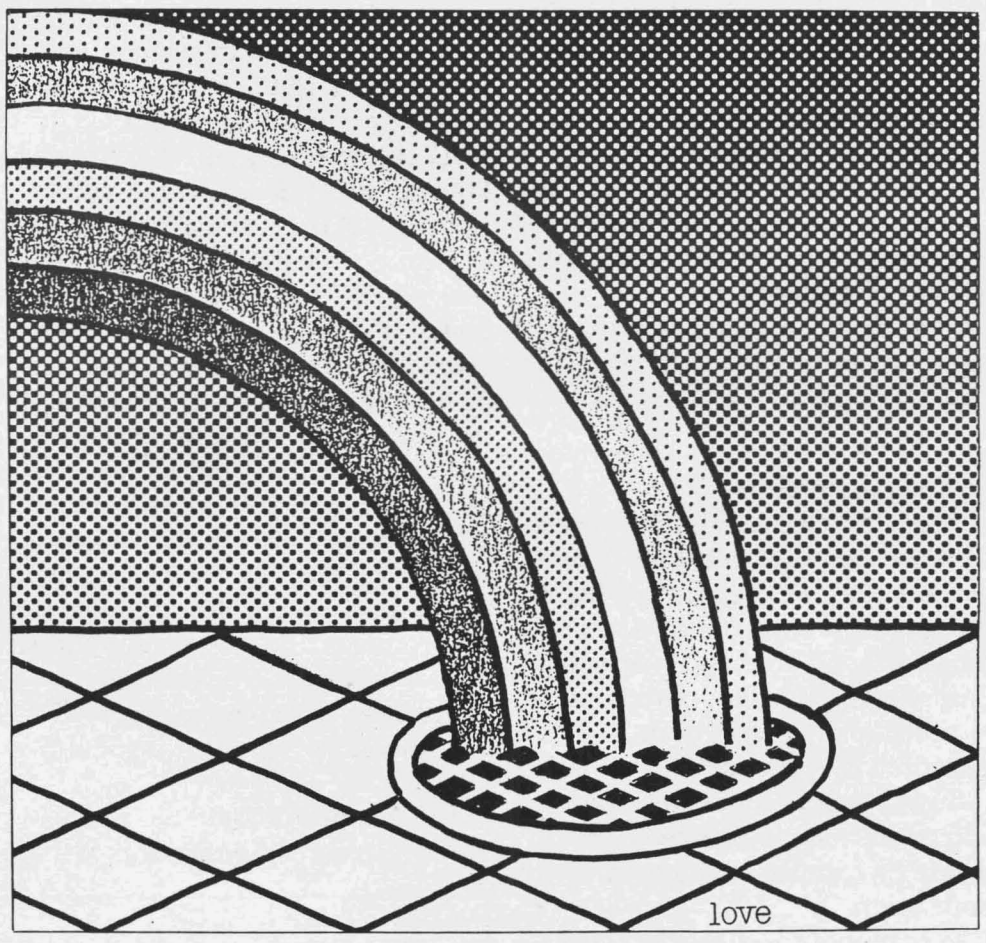
The Washington State Rainbow Coalition (WSRC), originally a provisional chapter of the National Rainbow Coalition (NRC), began to constitute itself in the aftermath of Jesse Jackson's 1988 Presidential campaign. We were first urged to postpone our founding convention until after the November election, in order to concentrate our energy on electing Michael Dukakis. Then we were asked by the NRC to wait until the budgetary hearings of the new state legislature, at which we could simultaneously promote our political concerns through lobbying activity. So we duly scheduled our founding convention for February 10-11, 1989.

Five weeks before the scheduled date of the convention, we received a letter from Jesse Jackson as the President of the NRC, asking us not to adopt an organizational structure and elect new officers, in order not to lock in a leadership structure prematurely. (The NRC was then in the process of adopting a new national structure with implications for the functioning of its state chapters.) Essentially, the founding convention was to be converted into a talkfest, but this request was rejected by the narrowest of margins by our interim State Steering Committee, and we went ahead with the convention as planned.

The WSRC founding convention was wildly successful. Some 270 Rainbow members from all across the state attended it, and we worked out a detailed political platform termed "ultraliberal" by the press. We adopted a completely democratic organizational structure, and elected seven state officers (including me, as Corresponding Secretary). One faction, a Latino-based community service organization in Seattle called El Centro de la Raza, tried to organize a boycott of the convention under the guise of obeying Jackson's wishes, but to no avail. (The real problem for this fifteen-person grouping was that they had held a lot of power in the interim Washington Rainbow, and they risked losing it if we organized ourselves democratically.)

Three weeks after our founding convention, the NRC Board of Directors held its long-awaited meeting on organizational restructuring. (I attended this meeting, as one of three invited WSRC representatives.) With the strong backing of Jesse Jackson, this meeting adopted an authoritarian, top-down structure. This structure gives effective control of all aspects of the functioning of state chapters to the NRC, which can appoint or remove any state or even local officer, which determines the state organizational structure, and which (only) can call state conventions.

The WSRC Executive Committee organized a "report-back" meeting for March 25 on the new NRC bylaws, open to all WSRC members. The El Centro contingent came and argued strongly in favor of accepting the new NRC structure, pointing out that under the new structure we shouldn't even be discussing whether to accept these changes in the NRC bylaws. Nonetheless, the sense of the meeting was overwhelmingly in favor of the Executive Committee's unanimous recommendation "to apply to the NRC for state chapter status while fully retaining the democratic aspects of our operating procedures [bylaws]". This formal application was made to the NRC on April 14, 1989, with a copy of the new WSRC bylaws enclosed.



The Fall of the WSRC

The goals of the WSRC are certainly lofty. According to its bylaws, its purpose is "to create a permanent independent progressive political organization operating throughout the state of Washington"; indeed, "to organize the most powerful, democratic, and progressive political organization in Washington State history". Its local-level units were originally the state's eight federal Congressional Districts, but a more natural breakup by county occurred in some areas. By the summer of 1989 the WSRC had some ten functioning local units and over 1000 members.

The founding convention attached major importance to publishing a regular state newsletter. The bylaws set up both a Publications Committee as a state standing committee to get out both the newsletter and other literature, and an Editorial Board for the newsletter to be chosen by the State Steering Committee (the WSRC's highest body). However, there were delays in starting up the newsletter, and then it never got going regularly. Only two issues of the state newsletter have been published in the WSRC's 1 and 1/2 years of existence, and the "Publications Committee" is essentially one person. (The Editorial Board has never been created.)

. . . the NRC Board of Directors held its long-awaited meeting on organizational restructuring. With the strong backing of Jesse Jackson, this meeting adopted an authoritarian, top-down structure.

The various local units have tended to start off strong and gradually collapse. For example, the huge 7th Congressional District unit in Seattle, comprising 35% of the WSRC membership, had a very large meeting and elected a steering committee of forty members, but this local unit now exists only on paper. An important exception to this trend has been the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition based in Olympia, which started right off publishing a monthly newsletter, and which is now publishing this exciting sixteen-page monthly newspaper. The Yakima County Rainbow Coalition, in the less-populated eastern part of the state, also is holding together well. Otherwise, the local units of the WSRC evidently no longer exist.

Overall, the WSRC has been giving very little to its members, in the form either of organized political activity in which they might participate, or of literature such as a regular state newsletter. The detailed political platform adopted at the founding convention is quite inspirational, but it has never been circulated to the membership. (Actually, it has been typeset and published - but only in the Thurston County Rainbow's newsletter.) Toward the end of last year the Executive Committee decided to revamp the outdated leaflet describing the WSRC, but this still hasn't been done. In spite of the high ideals of the WSRC, its members have accordingly voted with their feet: WSRC membership is now down to around 300 (from its peak of 1000 a year ago), and continuing to fall rapidly as members don't bother to renew their annual membership.

That the WSRC was in trouble was already evident to the Executive Committee in fall of last year, and they decided to hold a weekend retreat early this year. (My own reward for vigorously raising the need for a retreat was to be made chairperson of the ad hoc committee organizing the retreat.) Preparation for the retreat was thorough, with a fifty-page packet of materials concerning the seven major retreat topics being sent to the forty participants a week in advance.

(Continued next page.)

(Rainbow, continued.)

There was a lot of useful discussion at the retreat itself, but the participants avoided looking at the problems of the past year, at the causes of stagnation, at where we presently stood as an organization. (In fact, three position papers which raised these questions forcefully, including one by me and two other members of the Retreat Committee, were thoroughly trashed and literally consigned to the trash bin.)

Meanwhile, our application to the NRC for state chapter status has languished. We have had definite indications of interest in us by the NRC, but have never had any formal reply to our application. (However, in January of this year Jesse Jackson sent a form letter to the WSRC President appointing him interim coordinator of the to- be-created Washington State chapter of the NRC for the year 1990. Our reply was to reiterate that we already have a chapter out here and to ask for approval of our chapter application of April 14, 1989.) Jesse Jackson recently visited Seattle for an appearance at the Goodwill Games, but at a breakfast for local activists he treated the WSRC and the El Centro grouping as equal wings of the Rainbow, publicly calling for their reconciliation. (That meeting would have been a great opportunity to build the WSRC, but instead Jackson handed out membership applications and contribution envelopes for the NRC!)

. . . in January of this year Jesse Jackson sent a form letter to the WSRC President appointing him interim coordinator of the to- be-created Washington State chapter of the NRC for the year 1990. Our reply was to reiterate that we already have a chapter out here and to ask for approval of our chapter application of April 14, 1989.

Throughout all this, the WSRC Executive Committee has given very weak leadership to the organization, to identifying and tackling the very difficult problems which naturally occur in building such an organization from scratch. It has also failed to come down clearly on the side of democratic functioning and against the authoritarianism of Jesse Jackson and the NRC, thereby losing the interest of many activists. In short, collectively the formal leadership of the WSRC has failed in its mandate to start organizing "the most powerful, democratic, and progressive political organization in Washington State history", instead playing the game of The Emperor's New Clothes. But nonetheless, the WSRC doesn't really exist any longer.

The experience of the WSRC raises two questions of national significance. First, what should be the relationship of activists striving to build an independent progressive political movement, with Jesse Jackson and the "National Rainbow Coalition". And how appropriate toward building such a movement is an "inside/outside" strategy toward the Democratic Party? Next month we shall turn to these questions, and then shall sketch how it may yet be possible to resurrect the Washington State Rainbow Coalition.

Dave Jette is currently the Corresponding Secretary for the W.S.R.C. He has agreed to become a regular columnist.

WASHINGTON STATE DETAINS MORE KIDS

According to the Bureau of Census' Children in Custody series, Washington State leads the nation in its confinement of juveniles in detention and state institutions. Washington has 1,211 juveniles in custody for every 100,000 population. The second ranked jurisdiction was the District of Columbia, which had 666 kids detained for every 100,000 people. The national average is 245 per 100,000.

Reprinted from Prisoners Legal News, 4557 8th NE #3, Seattle, WA 98105.

Fostering Friendships

by Carol Simila-Dickinson

There is a group of people in our community for whom isolation and loneliness is the norm. These are people who have been socially isolated since birth, with only paid service providers, and occasionally immediate family members, as significant people in their lives. Sometimes, well-meaning but overly-protective care providers actually deter them from meeting other people and developing close friendships. These are the people whom we have labelled disabled.

When a young child is labelled disabled, she is often placed into a classroom with only other disabled children. Schools say that this is in the child's best interest. So starting at a very young age, parents get the message that their child is best off with other disabled people. Even if parents don't believe this, their "segregated" classroom. A whole generation of children who were not institutionalized at birth has still grown up isolated within their own homes and communities, because we failed to expand our concept of schools and the community as fully including them.

A local non-profit organization, Leisure Resources, is out to change this.

Leisure Resources wants to spread word in the community that, just like the name of their advocacy organization, people with disabil ities are People First! When exposed to recreational opportunities, they have as diverse a range of interests as anyone. Some love to go out to dinner; some like playing or watch ing soccer; others prefer to hike and watch birds, or maybe howling with the wolves at Wolf Haven.

There is no way to characterize the recreational interests of people with disabilities, except as diverse!

If you would like to make friends with someone who shares your interests, Leisure Resources can help. We have the names of lots of people who would like to make friends and enjoy recreation in the community. Recreation here is defined very broadly, from going to church to shaking a leg at the Doo-Wop Diner! Just call 786-5272 and we can get you started.

Rainbow Endorsements

by Dan Taylor

The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition has conducted its first phase of endorsements. Candidates facing primary runoffs and judgeships received a questionnaire with five to eight questions. Among the questions asked were: Which environmental protection laws do you support with regard to wetlands, open space, and old growth forest? Do you support Initiative 120? Would you support any increase to the minimum wage? Do you support continuing sanctions against South Africa? What do you think the U. S. role in the Mid-East Crisis should be? Do you support laws for fair and equal treatment of lesbians and gays?

Those candidates who received a TCRC endorsement were:

County Clerk (dual endorsement) - Betty Gould and Jeannette Hughes

County Sheriff - Hank Engelke

County Coroner - Judy Arnold

State Rep. 35th Dist-Brent Knott

Supreme Court Judge - Richard Guy

U.S. Rep. 3rd Dist.- Jolene Unsoeld

In a democracy the leaders should be the tools of the people, never people the tools of leaders.

☐ I want to join the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Enclosed is $ _____ toward my membership.

☐ Please put me on your mailing list.

_____
(name)

_____
(address)

_____
(city) *(state)* *(zip code)*

Send to:
Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507 For information Call 352-1877.

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BIG BUSINESS CALLING SHOTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF

by Leanne Roberts

George Bush recently used a press conference scheduled to discuss the massive federal deficit to announce a U.S. military invasion of the Middle East carrying a price tag of $7,000 each minute. While Bush cheered on warships draped in red, white and blue, not one word was mentioned about the problem dressed in green - the federal deficit. Perhaps that $7,000 per minute, or even one or two day's worth of that amount would make a nice down payment on the trillion dollar deficit.

Rather than dealing with the federal debt (or other pressing problems such as homelessness, AIDS, education and health care cut, S&L scandal, and student loan crisis), Bush decided to send our husbands, brothers, lovers and friends to kill and die in the Middle East. What for? If we listened to the media, the U.S. is sending troops to denounce the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and to protect the sovereignty of that land. Since when has the U.S., violator of nation sovereignty in South America, Central America, Africa, Asia, and Europe been interested in the self-determination of a people? Just this past December, the world condemned the U.S. invasion of Panama, yet no one sent warships to blockade the Panama Canal or stationed troops on the Costa Rican or Colombian borders. While the U.S. sends its troops to the Middle East, Panamanian families, made homeless from U.S. bombers, still live in cubicles in an old USAF air-hanger; and Nicaraguans, Salvadorans, Grenadans, Puerto Ricans, Vietnamese, Angolans, Mozambicans, Cambodians, and many other peoples still suffer the consequences of hunger, dictatorships, poverty, disease, torture and death brought about by U.S. intervention.

Without condoning Sadaam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, I oppose U.S. intervention in that region. The United Nations has implemented a trade embargo against Iraq (excluding food, although the U.S. has stated it will not allow ships carrying food to dock in Iraq) and has asked U.S. battleships to enforce these sanctions. Since when has the United States been an enforcer of international law? The U.S. ignored World Court rulings that demanded war reparations to be paid to Nicaragua and Vietnam. Based on this, one could call the U.S. a criminal nation - one that follows laws only when they suit its interests.

What is the U.S. interest in the Persian Gulf? Oil. Without it the economies of Japan, Western Europe and the U.S. would come to a halt. We are dependent on a limited natural resource. Instead of learning from the oil crisis of the 1970's, and developing alternative, safe, reliable sources of energy such as solar, hydro electric and wind power, the big oil company players and their teammate George Bush keep the oil flowing at an immense environmental and impending social cost. We already pay for our oil dependence through smog problems, closed beaches, polluted waters and deaths of fish, bird and marine wildlife. Now the government says oil is good for us and we must keep it flowing, as cheaply as possible. If the oil companies really cared about keeping this limited resource flowing cheaply, and more importantly, safely, they would invest in double-hulled ships that transport oil without the threat of a spill. How many cars, furnaces, and television sets could have been powered from the oil spilled in the Alaska, and Gulf of Mexico spills? How many houses could have been kept warm from the giant slick floating under Brooklyn?

What is the U.S. interest in the Persian Gulf? Oil.

It's about oil, but it's obviously not about getting it to the American people cheaply and safely. What the big companies and their protector, the U.S. government want, is to control a valuable resource. Big Business hates it when nations they import resources from, be it coffee, coca or cars, begin to ask for fair prices for their resources. So Big Business gets the U.S. government to intervene. In coffee growing regions, U.S. intervention means the funding and setting up of death squad governments. In coca growing nations, interventions means U.S. planes spraying napalm and Agent Orange on peasants who have no choice but to grow coca. And now in the oil rich Middle East, U.S. intervention means 250,000 troops sent to kill and die for Big Business's profits. In a time when working people are quickly becoming the unemployed and homeless, and the rich keep getting richer, it is outrageous to kill and die for an oil companies profits we'll never share. It isn't the friends and family of the oil company executives who will get sent to war, it is our family and friends. Why should we sacrifice our lives and jeopardize millions of Arab lives for men who earn $16.5 million each year (that's the salary of the CEO of Gulf Western) and for a government that wastes our hard earned tax dollars on weaponry instead of subsidizing housing, health care, education and food programs? Are you willing to kill and die for the rich? Resist!

Leanne is a member of Olympia Anti-Intervention Coalition.

Time To "Just Say No"

by Jason Summers

As we are barraged daily by the propaganda of the U.S. government's "righteous" military buildup in the Middle East, somehow every other foreign and domestic issue has been shelved. Yet, even in the few months before Saddam Hussein became a topic of household discussion, you would be hard pressed to find any news of the war in El Salvador. This is a crucial time unprecedented in the history of El Salvador. The popular sectors are unified enough to have pushed the Salvadoran government to negotiations and the U.S. Congress to debate the future of military aid. The Bush administration is very worried about the upcoming Senate vote in September that could possibly cut 50% of U.S. military aid to El Salvador. This is precisely why there has been a minimal amount of visibility to this controversial issue. The U.N. mediated negotiations between the ARENA government and the FMLN rebels have recently broken down. During the June talks in Mexico, the first item on the agenda was dicussed-the future role of the Armed Forces in Salvadoran Society. The FMLN echoed the dem ands of virtually the whole society when their proposals toward demilitarization would: (1) begin to place the Armed Forces under ci-vilian authority; (2) remove the most blatant human rights violators, and eliminate structures directly linked to death squad activi ty; and (3) end forced recruitment into the Armed Forces. The Salvadoran government responded to these proposals at the meetings in Costa Rica one month later by refusing to negotiate any steps towards demilitarizing the Salvadoran Armed Forces. They refused to ad mit that the military operates without any restraints. As the talks appeared to be going nowhere, the government did agree to sign a human rights agreement. The accord would allow for fre edom of the press, religion, expression and association. No more arrests or detentions would be allowed as a means of intimidation. Warrants would have to be obtained prior to any detention. These are all basic rights that every person should be guaranteed in any society, but in signing the agreement the government basically admitted that they have been involved in systematic human rights viol ations. (The Salvadoran government has for years been ranked as one of the highest human rights violators in the world.) However, th ere have been numerous disappearances and killings of civilians by security forces since the end of July. The United Nations has agreed to set up a Verification Mission to oversee the compliance to this agreement but not until after a cea se fire has been reached. This has played right into the hands of the Salvadoran government and has allowed them to avoid any discus sion about demilitarization and the restructuring of the military. The government negotiating team is trying to get the FMLN to lay down their arms and attempting to make the opposition look intransigent and unyielding to the policy makers in the U.S. The National Teachers Association, the Democratic Peasant Alliance, the non-governmental Human Rights Commission and numerous other groups have all called for the immediate implementation of the Verification Mission prior to having a cease fire and the FMLN lying down their arms. It is time that the United States listen to the people of El Salvador and stop its vicious policies that have caused thousands of deaths. While the Senate vote will come up in late September to cut 50% of what is deemed military aid, the Bush Admin istration is trying to get that number reduced to 15%. This would change virtually nothing considering that a large part of what is called economic aid is actually used for military purposes. The U.S. media would have us think that nothing is happening in El Salvador. We must cut through the silence, confront the U.S. gove rnment and demand a 100% cut in aid to the government in El Salvador.

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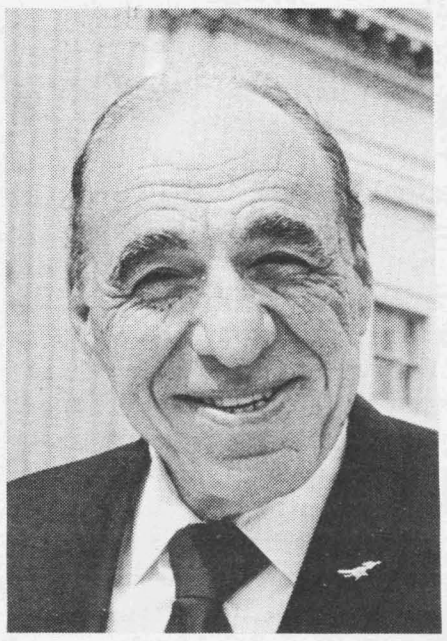
Jason Summers is currently a student at Evergreen.

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez

Lone Dissent From the Lone Star State



From a speech given by Rep. Henry B. Gonzales (D-TX) before the House of Representatives June 7, 1990. Edited for use in W.I.P. by Sylvia Smith and Gary King.

The great thing that the Founding Fathers of this great Nation feared and from which they were escaping, was king-made wars. They feared that more than anything else, and this is the reason why they placed in the Constitution the single exclusive power in the congress only to declare war. But what have we had lately? Well, now we have twilight undeclared Presidential wars. I was one of only three who criticized the Presidential order giving rise to the invasion of Panama on December 20, 1989. I still hold to that, and I gave the reasons; but it was overlooked. There were only three voices in the Congress against that, and there has been nothing subsequent to that.

What is the legal basis for that invasion? Panama was a sovereign republic with whom in 1977, we sat down and signed a treaty. We violated that treaty. Then we said that we want to bring democracy, which is not a legal reason, it is political.

So it was on the premises of our military base that they swore in the present head of Panama. What if the Russians did that? What would we say? We would laugh. We would say why it is so preposterous to say that you want democracy. What has happened since then? We have had to be there and rule, and govern with our soldiers. They are still there.

What happened in the process of the invasion? We committed acts which under the Nuremburg principles would be war crimes. We bombed with incendiaries the Chorrillo district constructed of flimsy wood which had been there since 1908, with the imported black workers from the Caribbean, Jamaica, and other places that we brought in there to help with the construction of the Panama Canal. We do not know how many of those people were incinerated, but we do know that it was at least 10 times more than what our officials have wanted to report. That is wrong. Should we keep quiet because we do not want to offend? I think that is equally wrong.

The press was confined. In effect they were under detention, all of the press, not only the American, but the British, who complained bitterly, and the South American press, who complained bitterly and wrote big articles. They are not printed here. The American press did not report the nature, and the extent of the damages and losses.

There are hundreds of Panamanian children who are limbless, armless, and blinded because of our invasion. Is that right? Of course it is not right!

What is the legal basis for then arresting and imprisoning the head of that sovereign state? He might be a moral monster, but he was the declared head by the Assembly of Panama as the head of that state. Even Hitler did not do what the United States did. He did not go into the Anschluss in Austria or Sudetenland and imprison the Czechoslovkian head or the other in Austria and bring them in and imprison them and then say I am going to try them because they violated German laws. He did not.

. . . the greatest threat to world peace is our country, the greatest obstacle to world understanding and alliance is our country

We violated all of the basics of international law from time immemorial, plus the OAS, and at least three different sections of the law, and which OAS condemned the invasion overwhelmingly. The United Nations, whose charter we signed, we violated that. The United Nations Assembly condemned our invasion. That never was really at all mentioned in our press.

I am constrained to reluctantly and sadly agree with Noam Chomsky who said the greatest threat to world peace is our country, the greatest obstacle to world understanding and alliance is our country. "What America needs is not dissent, it needs de-Nazification." I am compelled to agree with that.

I am forced to speak. It is not that I gain any pleasure out of it but I think this is something that sooner or later is going to come. Do we think that we are going to stem and quiet and suffocate the revolutions in those countries, coming up, emanating from the people? Not at all.

My colleagues, we will have problems because if we have detained and brought to this country and, in effect, have incommunicado the head of state of Panama, Noriega, is he a prisoner of war? Then we violated the Geneva Convention when we allowed our press and military to whoop up and take those mug shots of the man. That is prohibited by the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War.

What do we care about that? What did we care about the diplomatic immunity in the office of the Papal representative? We invaded that. Not physically, maybe, but this idea so incredible of blaring out hard rock day and night.

The first rule is that if we wish to enunciate law, we must be the first to respect and follow the law. We cannot have it both ways.

We point our fingers and say to the Russian leader on his recent visit, "Look, we will demand that you absolutely consider independence for Lithuania," etc., "or we can hold you in judgment." Well, up to now the Russians have not moved troops in. They have not deposed the ruler. They have not brought him in for violating Russian law. They have not bombed entire communities, helpless communities like the Torrijo district.

It happened to be an all-black district, because what we forget is the makeup of the society in Panama. Noriega is Negroid, he is partially black. The ruling 5 percent of the population is white, upper-class, and have had total control all along. And of course their interests are in consonance with ours. Why? Because they are the representatives of our business interest.

Panama built up the biggest foreign haven for money laundering, not necessarily drugs, since years ago. For 10 years I served as chairman of the Subcommittee on International Finance, and I went into that. I was the first one to use the words "the Latin dollar market." Everybody was talking about the Eurodollar market. I said, "Hey, you ought to see what is building up there." In Panama alone, they created a set of laws that matched and are probably more stringent than the Swiss laws on secret accounts. Thousands of our corporations have laundered money and escaped American taxes through Panama.

I do not do this with any particular pleasure, for I respect President Bush. President Bush is an individual I have had the great privilege of knowing as a Member of this House, before that in Texas and since that in a very congenial, very respectful way....I am also very sensitive to the fact that we are a coequal and a separate and an independent body, like the other two branches of the Government, the executive, the Presidency and the judiciary; but for good reason the men who wrote the constitution put the first article as the representative branch (the congress) and the second article as the executive branch; but today we have got the thought loosened on our end.

I dare say that perhaps the overwhelming majority of the members in or out of the Congress and citizens would say, if asked, that the President has more power, that he is omniscient, that he is of greater power and authority than either one of the other two branches. That simply is not true, and it is in direct proportion as we have strayed from that that we have gotten this country into what I consider to be perilous waters.

WE CARE!

Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground.

They want rain without thunder and lightening. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its waters.

This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle.

Power concedes nothing without a demand.

It never did, and it never will.

Frederick Douglass
August 4, 1857

A Message for Labor and Our Community
from the
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Emergency Campaign

SAVE THE ARTS

"It's frightening that at a time when the rest of the world seems to be discovering freedom and liberty for all people to express their ideas, we seem to be giving it up." — William H. Luers, president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

When the politicians start suppressing the arts instead of supporting them, there's no telling where it will end.

For 25 years, the National Endowment for the Arts has supported the cultural life of America. Theater and dance, music and art. From the bright lights of the big city to small towns and communities all across the nation. In that time the National Endowment has awarded 85,000 grants. To nourish the lives of our communities. To enrich our national culture. To enliven our democratic spirit. To show the world what it means to be American and free. Out of all those grants—over 3,000 a year—less than one per year has been controversial.

But that one percent is too much for the pro-censorship forces in Congress. They want to kill the National Endowment or else put politicians in charge of deciding what art the American people should see.

We think the American people should be allowed to decide that for themselves. If we let politicians control what we look at today, they'll want to control what we read tomorrow. Our museums and stages, classrooms and libraries, must stay free. That's why we have to make sure Congress reauthorizes the National Endowment for the ARTS (as well as the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum Services) without censorship restrictions.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Send a message to congress. All you need to do is call 1-900-225-ARTS and for $4.50 (billed to your phone) we'll send action-alert mailgrams in your name to your two Senators and Representative telling them you support the National Endowment for the Arts. Tell them that the NEA is important to your community, and that you want Congress to reauthorize it without censorship restrictions. And tell your friends to call the 900 number too. Congress listens to these messages. The other side—the pro-censorship side— has launched a well orchestrated letter campaign to kill the NEA. It's up to each of us to make sure that Congress hears more from us than from them. If you care about the arts in your community and your country, it's time to stand up and be counted. Time to say you agree with President Bush in supporting reauthorization of the NEA with no restrictions on artistic content. Time to tell Congress loud and clear: SAVE THE ARTS! CALL 1-900-226-ARTS.

Date:_____

Dear _____

I urge you to use your leadership to remove the recent so-called "obscenity clause" from the National Endowment for the Arts grant agreement. This rider is redundant in the face of current obscenity standards set by the U.S. Supreme Court. Its inclusion can only be construed as a form of intimidation and censorship. As an American, I deeply support freedom of expression and am opposed to all forms of censorship. I want to have access to the great diversity of art created by the great diversity of people in this country. I believe that the National Endowment for the Arts has done a superlative job helping to support the arts for over 25 years. The NEA should not be a battleground, but should remain a nurturing and essential force in the promotion of free speech. I implore you to take a strong stand in support of freedom of expression and the arts in this country.

Sincerely,

_____

Name

_____

Address, City, State, Zip

(Liberia, continued)

Morocco asked the United States to leave during World War II and to take its Voice of America radio equipment away, Liberia became the VOA's new home. The U.S. aided Liberia in building a huge shipping port and air base, and established treaties to use them in time of crisis or war.

Liberia was strategically important in the years that the U.S. feared Soviet or Chinese communism would gain a foothold in Africa. But while U.S. foreign policy in Africa and elsewhere can no longer be premised exclusively on the fear of communism, officials in the Bush Administration have not yet figured out an alternative policy. Faced with the situation in Liberia, they drew a blank and froze.

A comprehensive foreign policy would support human rights, self-determination, strengthen international law, promote economic development in the underdeveloped world, and apply the same operating principles everywhere.

Several specific steps are needed to deal with Liberia's plight: The U.S. should immediately convene an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council. The U.S. should recommend that U.N. security forces be sent immediately to Liberia to stop the fighting, re-establish order and stability, protect innocent civilians, provide emergency aid, establish a plan for internationally supervised elections, and remain there until Liberia regains its self-governing capability. There are about 14,000 Liberian visitors in the U.S., and the Immigration and Naturalization Service should grant them temporary refugee status for at least six months and allow them to work in this country. They should not be forced to return to Liberia under current conditions. There should be a permanent and uniform American policy for establishing sanctuary for any foreigners who are victims of natural disasters or civil strife while visiting. Such a bill has passed the House but is still holed up in a Senate committee. President Bush should urge the Senate to pass this bill and he should sign it. Lastly, the U.S., because of its long-standing special relationship with Liberia, should ready a massive emergency relief effort of food, medicine and other needs as they manifest themselves. These are ways to soften the tragic blows suffered by Liberia.

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No Pizzazz

Domino's Theory

This is an excerpt taken from a speech in February at Madonna College in Livoria, Michigan given by Thomas Monaghan, the founder of Domino's Pizza. He's filthy rich, a half billion at least.

"To me one of the most exciting things in the world is being poor. Survival is such an exciting challenge. There was a study done about twenty years ago, I think at Harvard, which said that the average family of four could live on $68 a year. That's a balanced diet — everything they need for a year. Now today that might be $250 or $300, but when we see these people in lines in supermarkets with all these food stamps, buying potato chips and snack foods and ice cream, I mean, give me a break! That's poverty?

Now you're probably wondering how you can live on $68 a year. The first thing you do is go to the Farm Bureau and buy a hundred-pound bag of powdered milk, like they feed the calves — there's nothing wrong with it; it tastes just like regular milk when you put a little water in it. That would probably last you the better part of a year. While you're at the Farm Bureau you buy yourself a bushel of oats or wheat or corn, and you mash that stuff up. What you're eating isn't all that tasty — it kind of tastes like cornmeal mush — but it's healthy. And you grow some vegetables and you get a few vitamin pills to supplement your diet. And I think that's exciting.

You ought to really explore the cheapest ways to live. Living in a house trailer — my gosh, that was the greatest living I ever did. We bought a used house trailer for $1,400, and we paid about $30 a month for the lot. Now you can get a lot for $175 and you can buy a used house trailer for maybe $5,000. And you're building some equity in something; you're not paying rent. Oh gosh, I'd love to talk to all these people who say they can't get by.

Reprinted from Harper's Magazine, August 1990.

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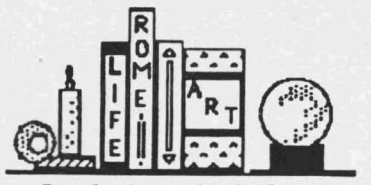

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Amnesty International

by Matt Love

Amnesty International (AI) was formed in 1961 when British lawyer Peter Benenson read about two Portuguese students who were sentenced to seven years imprisonment for raising their glasses in a toast to freedom. Benenson conceived of a one-year campaign to focus attention on these and other prisoners. Groups of concerned individuals would "adopt" specific prisoners, contacting their families, writing appeal letters to the appropriate authorities, and attempting to let the prisoners know that people cared about their plight.

Extensive media coverage of the campaign captured the sympathies of the public, and within the year groups had formed in a dozen countries. The one-year campaign became a permanent movement.

Amnesty International was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to promote global observance of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (drafted in 1948 in response to the human rights crimes of World War II). Today AI has over 800,000 members in 160 countries.

AI literature states that their effectiveness depends on their impartial application of a single standard of human rights to all countries. The organization is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests, and religious creeds, and it relies on donations from the public. To safeguard impartiality, members work on cases of prisoners outside their own countries.

AI has a number of strategies for carrying out their work:

* Prisoner Casework - Many AI groups are assigned to the cases of one or more Prisoners of Conscience (POCs). AI defines a POC as an "individual (who) has been imprisoned for his or her beliefs, race, sex, language, religion or ethnic origin, and has not used nor advocated violence". The group "adopts" the prisoner, and develops a community-wide campaign to obtain his or her release.

* Regional Action Networks (RANs) - These networks consist of Amnesty International groups which focus on a particular region in the world.

* Campaigns - These target specific countries and their human rights violations, such as torture, political killings or the death penalty, for a brief period, usually several months, in order to put that country on the "human rights map".

* Abolition of the Death Penalty - AI members throughout the world campaign for the abolition of the death penalty. Although AI does not in general allow members to work on the cases of prisoners in their own countries, members can work to promote abolitionist legislation, and protest individual executions in the United States.

* Appealing to the United States Government - AI regularly disseminates information to the executive and legislative branches of the United States government and urges officials to use their influence on other governments to stop violations of human rights.

* Urgent Action Network - In ironic testimony to theeffectiveness of AI pressure, according to Amnesty International Olympia Co-coordinator Janine Rogers, "Governments are getting smarter. They will now detain people, torture them, and release them, often within 48 hours. Later, they will detain them again and repeat the cycle." In response, Amnesty International established the Urgent Action Network in 1973. Within hours of a prisoner's detention or disappearance, Amnesty distributes case information to a network of thousands of volunteers. They respond with telegrams and airmail letters to the appropriate officials.

* Other AI programs include monthly letter writing campaigns, which focus special attention on POCs whose extreme illness, prolonged detention, or severe conditions call for extra efforts. The Legal Support Network and Health Professionals Network include legal and health professionals who work on behalf of imprisoned colleagues, and appeal to governments in their professional capacities.

AI, Olympia has also recently inspired an Urgent Action letter writing group of state workers at the Washington State Department of Ecology.

The local AI chapter was formed in March, 1986. The group is flourishing, with nearly 100 dues paying members, and six dedicated Board members. The group receives no money from the national organization, and is responsible for its own fundraising.

Much of AI, Olympia's work in its first four years has been as an Urgent Action letter writing group focusing on Latin America; however, it has recently joined the South East Asia Regional Action Network. Rogers cited local members' interest in the region and the large South East Asian ethnic and refugee community in this area as motivating factors. Tibet has also become an area for special attention.

According to Amnesty, hundreds of Tibetans calling for Tibet's independence from China have been detained without charge. Many of those detained, including Tibetan monks, have been tortured. Amnesty has made repeated requests to the Chinese government to investigate the allegations of torture and has called for an end to continued mass detentions and executions.

AI, Olympia in cooperation with the Tibetan Human Rights Council of Seattle and the Tibetan Buddhist Center of Olympia, hosted a reception with Tibetans Jamyang Norbu and Lhasang Tsering, founder and president, respectively, of the Tibetan Youth Congress. AI, Olympia also initiated their appearance on Thurston County Television (TCTV), Channel 31, with Pat Boutin Wald, AI, Olympia Co-coordinator and Carol Dement, AI, Olympia Refugee Coordinator. The one-hour program, "Human Rights in Tibet", was produced by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and aired several times in June and July. AI, Olympia also sponsored a slide presentation and discussion of the Chinese-Tibet human rights situation at The Olympia Center and Evergreen by Olympians Chrystal Tack and Wendy Schofield, both recently returned from Asia. The group has announced that as a result of the volume of requests for more information, and information that has since come their way, they will focus on Tibet, in addition to their other projects, for at least a year.

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In July, AI, Olympia sponsored a program on Israel and the Occupied Territories, with support from the local Mideast Peace Coalition. The program, which drew a standing room only crowd to the downtown Olympia Center, featured the recent AIUSA video "Israel and the Occupied Territories", and Seattle human rights observer, Alan Greenbaum. Greenbaum, who has visited the West Bank and Gaza, lead an active discussion which involved numerous Jews and Arabs attending the presentation.

AI, Olympia has also recently inspired an Urgent Action letter writing group of state workers at the Washington State Department of Ecology. The group recently met for the first time this month with several participants.

AI, Olympia's next public presentation will be September 20th, on human rights in Cambodia. (Amnesty public presentations are scheduled Thursday of odd-numbered months, at The Olympia Center, 222 N. Columbia, Room 201, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm.) Two members of the local Cambodian community will speak.

Also this fall, attorney Carlos Escobar, a former POC, will speak at Evergreen. After fleeing his native Peru, Escobar now lives in San Francisco, with support from AIUSA. AI, Olympia hopes to involve attorneys who are members of AI, Olympia, in the planning for this event.

In lieu of a public presentation in November, AI, Olympia will hold its third annual Amnesty Auction. Last year's auction raised over $1,300, which paid for the monthly telegram program, and the community educational programs and projects. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds was given to Veng Khau, a young Cambodian refugee artist who came to AI's attention as an entrant in a regionally sponsored Amnesty high school art contest.

For more information on Amnesty International and the work of AI, Olympia, contact Co-coordinations Janine Rogers (943-3895) or Pat Boutin Wald (754-7283).

Matt Love is a armchair radical and also the graphic artist for W.I.P.

In May, the North Thurston High School Student's Amnesty International organized a "One Hour of Silence" on the Capitol steps to raise awareness of the plight of Prisoners of Conscience. The event gathered about 40 students, some of whom wore strips of cloth around their mouths, demonstrating solidarity with those who are forced to be silent.

(Investments, continued)

mental destruction, domestic job loss, or corporations who benefit from governments which abuse human rights on a daily basis. No, the ostensible purpose of the investment board is quite noble: it exists to provide state workers with a comfortable and secure retirement after a career of public service. Unfortunately these well intentioned ends are met through rather dubious means.

State workers currently have little say over how their pension funds will be invested. Instead, the investment board--composed primarily of financial "experts"--oversees pension monies. Consequently, investment decisions narrowly adhere to the all-familiar "bottom line"- profitability.

According to the board's statement of purpose, the only criteria the board follows when making investment decisions are "..procedures designed exclusively to maximize returns at a prudent level of risk." In other words, the board will exercise caution, but not conscience, when making investment decisions.

This indifference regarding social responsibility was recently demonstrated by the state investment board's decision to increase its holdings in Exxon after the Valdez oil spill. The fact that Exxon responded to the disaster with arrogance and unaccountability seemed to make little difference to the board.

It comes as no surprise then, that the State Investment Board has utilized the pension funds of state employees to invest in many companies with equally disturbing records. We chose 7 of the companies in which the state is invested and examined their past operations in Central and South America.

Exxon, in conjunction with Royal Dutch Shell, owns a petroleum refinery in El Salvador. Exxon also has operations in Honduras, Costa Rica, and Guatemala.

In South Africa, the anti-apartheid movement has focused on oil companies due to their signifigant role as facilitators of regional oppression. The same can be said of oil companies operating in Central America.

In Central America petro-chemical companies turn a handsome profit by fueling the arsenals of governments throughout the region which repress reform and labor movements. This state terror provides multinationals with a "stable" (profitable) investment climate of few regulations and cheap labor.

The board is heavily invested in Chevron, Dow, Dupont and Monsanto. These corporations sell and distribute pesticides throughout Central and South America. One such product is the pesticide Parathion, produced by Monsanto. Parathion is "...so acutely toxic that a teaspoon spilled on the skin can be fatal." It has been documented that nearly 90% of the parathion produced in the U.S. is imported to Central America.

A lack of restrictions and regulations that exist elsewhere coupled with the demand created by extensive export cash crops, makes pesticide production and sales in Central and South America highly profitable. Meanwhile the people and environment suffer.

Many of the toxic pesticides/ herbicides sold in Central and South America lack any warnings and safety precautions on the product labels. Moreover these chemicals are often indiscriminately sprayed on fields and workers. As a result, Central Americans suffer a pesticide poisoning rate which is 1,800 times that of U.S. citizens.

. . . local 443 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) is considering a union resolution that would establish the "Its Our Money Watch Dog Committee ". The committee, composed of workers, would make sure that environmental and labor rights, not just profits, were considered by the board when it made investment decisions.

Dow, Dupont, and Monsanto have had a direct hand in maintaining this deadly status quo. All are members of ANDEF, a Brazilian lobby which has continually broken and challenged law 7747. This law would require chemical companies to provide data on the toxicity levels of pesticides. The statue would also ban the import of organo-chlorine pesticides and all those chemicals " which are not authorized in their country of origin ".

The abuse of the environment and working people is not an abstract problem located in a distant country. U.S. citizens, as consumers of the export crops which come from Central and South America, are directly effected by corporate irresponsibility in the "third world".

In 1983-84 it was found that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration used methods which were incapable of detecting two thirds of the pesticides registered by the FDA for use on foods. When the Natural Resources Defense Council sampled fresh fruits and vegetables, they found that 44 percent contained residues of nineteen different pesticides-- several of which are known carcinogens.

It should also be pointed out that Dow, Dupont and Monsanto are among the leading dumpers and creators of toxic waste in the U.S. In 1985 Dow was named as a responsible party in nine superfund sites throughout the nation. Dupont is one of the leading producers of CFC's. Monsanto has been responsible for sixteen superfund cleanups.

The relationship of corporate policy to foreign and domestic pollution is strongly connected. The nonexistent regulatory climate in the "Third World" reduces production costs and increases profits for multinational corporations. This being the case, these same corporations can threaten communities and politicians in the U.S. with suggestions of moving to "less costly" locations. The results are often watered down laws and increased pollution for the short-run maintenance of jobs. In either case, the environment and workers, both at home and abroad are exploited and manipulated.

Similar to chemical companies, multinational financial institutions play a substantial role in the affairs of Central American countries. The State Investment Board has major holdings in Bank of America (BOA), which is second only to the Guatemalan government as a source of working capital for the export sector.

BOA has repeatedly funded the subversion of human rights in Central America through financing businesses that have direct links to death squads.

PROESA is one such business. In a CBS documentary PROESA general manager Fred Sherwood claimed, " Why should we be worried about death squads? They're bumping off the commies, our enemies...the death squads? I'm all for it!"

BOA client Roberto Alejos Arzu, a right wing owner of the El Salto sugar plantation has put Sherwood's management principles into practice. In 1980 nine workers were killed at El Salto in a dispute over wages.

BOA's policy towards labor rights is the norm, rather than the exception in Central America. The intimidation of workers in Central America is a necessary component of the system of development that feeds the profit and power of regional warfare states, oligarchies and multinational corporations.

The assault on workers abroad not only causes grief and perpetuates economic misery for those directly involved, but affects workers in the U.S. as well. Fred Schwartz of the Communications Workers of America notes, "The attacks on labor in the U.S. are closely related. For example, many multinational corporations are shutting down plants in the United States to profit from cheaper labor in the ' third world' countries."

Attempts by U.S. citizens to bring about accountability in the global labor market are not looked fondly upon by corporate management. For instance, in 1982 the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) and the California State Teachers Retirement System registered shareholder complaints concerning BOA's operations in Guatemala. Hoping to diffuse a public confrontation at the shareholder's meeting, a BOA secretary suggested that ICCR investors should perhaps consider "...what would happen to their representatives in Guatemala should the stockholder action be made public."

BOA's actions reveal how serious corporate America regards the threat of pensioners who try to influence corporate behavior through their holdings. By 1995 one third of all domestic capital in the U.S. will be tied up in pension funds.

The stocks and bonds comprising pension funds are a component of corporate power. If pensioners were to begin filing shareholder complaints regarding abuse of the environment and workers, they could wield an enormous amount of power to prompt change in corporate policy.

Resolutions drafted by pensionholders through their unions could provide criteria regarding the environment and human rights which pension board directors would have to apply to the companies in which they invested.

In Washington State, local 443 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) is considering a union resolution that would establish the " Its Our Money Watch Dog Committee ". The committee, composed of workers, would make sure that environmental and labor rights, not just profits, were considered by the board when it made investment decisions. The board would no longer be operating in the " interests " of workers as it defined them. Instead it would be workers who provided the board with a mandate for socially responsible investment conduct. If corporations refused to abide by criteria spelled out in resolutions, then a number of tactics could be considered, one of which is divestment.

The decision to file resolutions or divest should not be taken lightly, however.

We offer these suggestions merely as a starting point for state workers to challenge corporate irresponsibility. Further elaboration and analysis regarding resolutions and divestment tactics should only rightfully come from state pensioners, their supporters in the local community and workers elsewhere who would be potentially effected by divestment.

This last point brings us to some concluding remarks about solidarity. At it's recent national convention, AFSCME stood shoulder to shoulder with Nelson Mandela. Mandela acknowledged that the support which AFSCME and other U.S. unions had given him was a pivotal factor in advancing the cause of freedom for himself and the people of South Africa. The union and Mandela addressed each other as brothers and sisters; as working people respecting but not being divided by differences of race and nationality. This was truly a bright moment for international solidarity.

Yet behind the heroism of Nelson Mandela stand thousands of equally brave men and women,

(continued next page.)

Washington State Investment Board

Operates in Isolation

The following is a letter written to Washington State Treasurer Dan Grimm, State Investment Board member. Evelynn Montague is a Representative of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

Dear Dan,

The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition has been waiting for some time for a response to my letter to you of May 10 regarding the Investment Board's large addition to its investment in Exxon.

I very much appreciate that you are a busy state official and had family illness concerns at that time, but I am still hoping for a response. Has there been any discussion of the concerns I raised? (I am enclosing another copy.) At the board meeting, August 13, a few members did inquire if I was Evelyn Montague, out of curiosity, I suppose. So I presume you did distribute the message to them, but no one said anything of substance to us.

To my further chagrin, Mr. Dear seemed to try to discourage us from staying for the afternoon meetings, indicating that he thought they would be of little interest to us. On the contrary, after lunch, when the secretary finally gave us the agenda for the afternoon session, we were very much interested in the content. However, we were never offered copies of the ring binder to which members referred constantly. This made it quite difficult for us to follow the presentation.

The meeting of August 13, 1990 was the fifth consecutive quarterly meeting of the Investment Board, I have attended since Sylvia Smith and I had a good and encouraging conversation with you July '89. We understood that you wanted constituents to start participating in the process in order to achieve some goals which you and the Rainbow Coalition apparently share.

A couple of my observations:

We are delighted to hear Mr. Northcroft expressing some ideas which must seem heretical to the Investment Board staff. No one picked up on his suggestions for socially responsible investments.

The meetings are incredibly stiff and I am appalled that voting Board members seem to feel they must apologize when asking questions for information. Mr. Weig goes on and on assuming everyone is as well acquainted as he is with the basis for his statements. We have to question if all the voting Board members are that well informed. I believe he was the one who threw out the gratuitous comment that we are in the red. It did not sound like it - $17.8 billion? The increments are quite large each time I inquire.

I am not sure where we should go from here, but we are acquiring considerable information about the viability of socially responsible investments. Real public participation after ten long years of operation in isolation is bound to cause considerable discomfort, but if the board is still uncomfortable with or resents our mere presence, we have a long way to go before that body listens to and responds to the concerns of the huge numbers of employees with whose money they are working.

Please remind the secretary of our intent to attend the Investment Board Meetings and our request for receipt of advance notification and agendas of them.

Please send your response to my letter to my home address. If you have some suggestions and/or time and inclination, we would be glad to meet with you again. Thank you. Very sincerely,

Evelyn Montague

W.I.P. footnote: The Washington State Investment Board moved the meeting place of their quarterly meeting without any advanced notice as requested by Rainbow members who have been regular attendees. Thus, upon finding the meeting place changed Members had to drive an additional 50 miles and were forced to arrive late. A sad commentary on the Washington State Investment Board's regard for public access.

Washington State Investment Board Members

James Cason
LEOFF Representative

Joe Dear, Chair 753-6307
Director - Department of Labor and Industries

Daniel K. Grimm 753-7130
Washington State Treasurer

Joseph E. King 786-7999
Washington State Representative

Reese Linquist
Teachers' Representative

Dan McDonald 786-7694
Washinton State Senator

Gary Moore
Employees' Representative

George Northcroft
Director - Department of Retirement Systems

James F. Ryan
Retired Members Representative

Correspondence may be directed to the members at following address:

c/o State Investment Board
421 South Capitol Way, FR-31
Olympia, Washington 98504
(206) 753-6810

(Investments, continued.)

activists for the environment, labor rights and social justice, whose voices and actions are muffled by government and corporate repression in the U.S., Central America, South Korea, Indonesia, the Philippines and elsewhere.

It is these people who must by kept in mind during efforts to change investment policy. The issue of pension funds reveals that corporate exploitation of workers and the environment occurs on a global scale. Workers taking control of their pension funds is but one means of international solidarity directed at changing a global economy currently geared towards cheap labor and environmental destruction.

Concerned pensioners, aided by progressive students, faculty, activists and state legislators, should scrutinize the global implications of their pension investments and then act on international principles of environmental protection and labor rights. By these means, workers in Washington state could go beyond the bottom line and make their pension funds a tool for social justice as well as a source of financial security.

William Kramer, Sean Starke and Scot Wheat are currently students at The Evergreen State College.

There is an Alternative

For state employees in the State of Washington, their untaxed voluntary retirement savings (Deferred Compensation, the equivalent of 401 (k) or Keogh) can be invested according to conscience by choosing the Calvert Social Investment Fund (CSIF). This option was added 5 years ago after an extended struggle with the Governor's appointees on the Deferred Compensation official "board of directors." The effort began with two activist-oriented state employees, Cathy Cooper and Kay Lilland. Important assistance came from Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld, Washington Public Employees Association and The Olympian.

Deferred Compensation offers reduced current tax liability (a modest form of war tax resistance) and no-load (cheap) access to CSIF.

Want more info? 1-800-423-1524

September

September 2nd

1921 - Mineowners bomb West Virginia strikers by plane.

September 3rd

LABOR DAY: A Community Celebration. This is it folks! The time and place to rejoice in the working class culture, history and futur e. 12:30 - 6:00, Sylvester Park (Capitol Way & Legion) in Olympia. Tons of speakers from unions and progressive organizations, live music, story telling, watermelons, etc., etc., etc. Remember Our Past! Reclaim Our Future! Organized by students from the Evergreen Labor Center and Sponsored by Thurston/Lewis Labor Council, APWU Olympia Loca 2354, ATU 1384, AFSCME 443, NALC 351, Carpenters Local 1148.

OLYMPIA ANTI-INTERVENTION COALTION will have a booth at the Labor Day event in Sylvester Park. An ideal opportunity to get more information on the Middle East.

September 5th

OLYMPIA ANTI-INTERVENTION COALTION will be sponsoring a panel discussion on what the press doesn't tell you about the Middle East, at 7 p.m., at the Olympia Center, 222 N. Columbia.

Panelists include: Stephanie Coontz, History and Omen's Studies- TESC; Asad Bushaq, engineer with insights into the repercussions for Arab Americans; Alan Nasser Progessor of Philosphy and History-TESC; and Mike Layton, Resporter-Seattle P.I.

In case war breaks out before those two dates, meet to protest at 6 p.m. on Percival Landing.

The Olympia Anti-Intervention Coalition can be reached at 866-9231.

PEACE VIGIL - Every Wednesday Noon - 1:00 pm Sylvester Park. Sponsored by Fellowship of Reconciliation. Signs provided.

September 6th

OLYMPIANS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY 7:30 pm. Call Carl at 943-3557 or Glen at 491-9093.

September 8th

1965 - United Farm Workers begins grape boycott.

September 10th

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - Thurston County Democrats, Campaign Hdqrts. 1014 E. 4th. They need your company and your thoughts.

September 11th

1973 - Allende Government overthrown in CIA-backed coup, Chile.

NON-VIOLENT ACTION VIDEO (Philippines, Middle East, & Chile) - TCTV Channel 31, 9:30 pm. Sponsored by Fellowship of Reconciliation.

SPEECH EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING-Education Committee members have been working: to gather educational resources and environmental education curriculum; to design a library indexing system; and to enable teachers in the Olympia and surrounding school districts, students and the public to access these resources.

SPEECH welcomes its supporters to contribute educational material pertaining to water quality, recycling, wetland protection, conservation, alternative energy sources, air quality, etc. etc... If you have ideas to share on sources for further educational material or time to volunteer to help set up the library or contact public schools, please contact Ann at 786-6349. The meeting will be at 11am.

September 12th

GREEN DIRECTORY COMMITTEE MEETING - Production of the "Green Guide to the South Sound" continues. This directory will include sections on green groups, environmental hot lines and info numbers, green recreation and citizens involvement information.

Anyone interested in helping the committee is welcome Contact SPEECH for specific time and place.

September 15th

1845- Women cotton workers strike for 10-hour day, Allegheny, Pa.

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THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP POTLUCK PICNIC - 1 pm, Priest Point Park (straight out East Bay Dr), Olympia. East side of park, first right after Rose Garden. Bring your own utensils and beverages. We will be going through endorsement questionnaires from candidates for this fall's election following lunch.

If it's raining, the picnic will be held at First Christian Church (Seventh & Franklin).

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September 16th

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION MONTHLY GET-TO-GETHER 3:00-5:00 pm . St. John's Episcopal Church, 19th & Capitol Way.

September 18th

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY. Get out there and vote!

September 19th

1885 - Chinese coal miners driven out of Black Diamond, Wa.

September 20th

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION on Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge. There will be two speakers from the local Cambodia community. 7:30 - 9:00 pm, at the Olympia Center, 222 W. Columbia.

September 22nd

1862 - Emancipation Proclamation.

September 23rd

WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN CANDLELIGHT VIGIL to bring attention and political pressure on world leaders to make children's welfare and rights a "first call" priority for the nineties and beyond. Begins late afternoon, with games and entertainment, and to culminate with speeches, singing and the vigel at nightfall. For information call Vicky Anderson at 754-6389 or Rick Yale at 456-2023.

September 26th

First Hanford reactor began operation, 1944.

September 28th

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY. Helping your child to obtain the best education possible; Meeting cultural needs of minority students, developing strong basic skills, home/school partnership, using technology. 7 pm at the Lacey Community Center (1147 Willo w Street SE), $5 donation. Tickets available from Meta Heller at 352-9507 and Nanette Bullack at 456-4289.

Presented by the Olympia branch of the Tacoma Urban League.

September 30th

INTERNATIONAL PEACE MENU International Food - New ways to plug in. Call Glen at 491-9093.

October 2nd

Mahatma Ghandi's birthday.

WORLD FARM ANIMAL DAY Farm animals account for 95 percent of all animals that are abused and killed in the U.S. and other developed countries. These animals truly never have "a nice day." From birth, they are confined, crowded, mutilated, and deprived, till the butcher's knife puts them out of their misery. Clearly a day dedicated to farm animals is long over due.

This day is to enhance publi c awareness of animal abuse and other destructive impacts of today's animal agriculture on human health, world hunger, natural resources, and environmental quality.

Compared to the suffering above, one day of a vegetarian menu is a piece of cake!

Unions do more than negotiate wages.

September 28-30, 63 representatives from local AFSCME 443 will attend the AFSCME Council 28 Convention in Spokane. 443 members will bring issues such as hiring organizers, the State's manner of investing pension funds, and the broadening of the political endorsement procedures to the convention which will decide policy and direction for the next two years. Results of the convention can be found in the next 443 newsletter.

Make your impact on the world.

JOIN THE WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES TODAY!

AFSCME - Local 443 - AFL-CIO P.O. Box 105, Olympia, WA 98507
Phone 943-7178 Helen Lee, President

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